WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An automated warranty fulfillment system for consumables comprising:

a memory disposed on said consumable;

an interface for facilitating communication between said consumable and an device;

warranty information originally stored on said memory;

5   use data obtained after installation of said consumable;

and

a set of computer-executable code instructions for interacting with a user, wherein said code instructions use fulfillment information selected from responses obtained from said user, said warranty information, and said use data to complete warranty requirements.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein consumable is an image forming consumable.

3.   The system of claim 2 further comprising:

additional computer-executable code instructions for forming an image of said completed warranty requirements.

4.   The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a processor disposed on said consumable for executing said set of computer-executable code instructions, wherein said executed instructions are communicated to said device over said interface.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein said user interacts with said automated warranty fulfillment system using a host system connected to said device.

6.   The system of claim 5 wherein said host system comprises a general purpose computer.

7.   The system of claim 1 wherein said set of computer-executable code instructions communicates said completed warranty requirements to a warranty issuer over a data network.

8.   The system of claim 7 wherein said data network comprises the Internet.

9.   A method for automating warranty fulfillment for a consumable comprising the steps of:

storing warranty data onto memory disposed on said consumable;

interfacing said consumable with a home device;

obtaining use-related information after installation of said consumable;

executing warranty fulfillment software disposed on said consumable memory;

prompting a user for warranty-relevant data;

assembling warranty fulfillment information from selected ones of said warranty data, said use-related information, and said warranty-relevant data; and

completing warranty requirements responsive to said assembling step.

10.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

connecting a host system to said device, wherein said prompting step is presented on a display of said host system.

11.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

printing said completed warranty requirements.

12.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

electronically communicating said completed warranty requirements to a warranty issuer.

13.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

performing diagnostic testing on said consumable.

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14.   The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:

comparing diagnostic information with said warranty data to determine applicability of said warranty.

15.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing said warranty data and said use-related information in an external memory when said consumable is inoperable.

16.   The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

executing warranty fulfillment software disposed on a memory of a new consumable; and

assembling said warranty fulfillment information from selected ones of said temporarily stored warranty data, said temporarily stored use-related information, and said warranty-relevant data obtained by said new consumable.

17.   A consumable for a device comprising:

means for storing warranty terms on said consumable;

means for obtaining post-installation information regarding said consumable;

means for storing said post-installation information on said consumable;

5   means for interacting with a user for fulfilling consumable warranty requirements; and

means for completing warranty fulfillment information from at least one of:

        said warranty terms;

        said post-installation information; and

        said means for interacting.

18.   The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

means for interfacing said consumable with said device.

19.   The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

means for communicating with a host system operated by said user.

20.   The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

means for forming an image of said completed warranty fulfillment information.

21.   The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

    means for communicating said completed warranty fulfillment information to a
warranty issuer.